

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2375
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

INCLUSION OF LAI HARAoba FESTIVAL IN UNESCO'S INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE LIST

2375. DR. ANGOMCHA BIMOL AKOIJAM:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to include Lai Haraoba, the traditional festival and ritual celebrated in Manipur, India, in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the current status of the proposal; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

a) to (b) Ministry of Culture through Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA), the nodal implementing agency for Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), examines the proposal(s) received from the community/stakeholders for inclusion/ nomination to the UNESCO'S Representative List of ICH of Humanity.

For inclusion of an element in the UNESCO's Representative List of ICH, the state parties are required to submit nomination dossier on the relevant element for evaluation and examination by UNESCO Committee. As per UNESCO's latest Operational Directives, each member state is permitted to nominate only one element every two years for possible inscription. In this context, India has nominated the 'Deepavali' Festival for the 2024–25 cycle. The nomination will be considered during the 20th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, scheduled to be held in New Delhi in December 2025.

Presently, no such proposal is under consideration for inclusion to the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

c) The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has designated Sangeet Natak Akademi as the nodal agency for coordinating India's nominations to various UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) lists, as well as for undertaking related responsibilities such as the development and maintenance of the National Inventory of ICH.

Inclusion in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity begins with the element being inventorized in the National Inventory. For this purpose, detailed documentation—including videos, photographs, and a brief description of the element—is submitted for consideration.

This process has been completed for Lai Haraoba, which has been included as the 50th element in the National Inventory. The details can be accessed on the official website: <https://indiaich-sna.in/national-inventory>.
